

What is claimed is:

1 *Sub* 1. A method for administering use of a golf course information system
2 implemented in golf carts or other roving units with display monitor adapted to provide display
3 of any or all of course and hole layout, course features and distance information to assist a
4 golfer in play of the golf course, or of specific information of interest to the individual from
5 external networks including tournament and individual scoring, stock quotations and electronic
6 mail to enhance the golfing experience, said method comprising the steps of:

7 invoking a gratis trial period less than an entire round of play of the course during which
8 the cart display of such information is activated for a golfer commencing use of the cart; and
9 automatically rendering said cart display of such information inactive at the end of said
10 gratis trial period unless, by that point of play, a payment authorization for completion of the
11 round with activated cart display has been made by a golfer using the cart.

1 2. The method of claim 1, including the step of providing the golfer with a
2 capability to enter a payment authorization during or at the end of said gratis trial period.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of providing a capability to enter
2 payment authorization comprises outfitting the cart with said capability.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said step of providing a capability to enter
2 payment authorization comprises locating a kiosk outfitted with said capability at a point of
3 play to be traversed by the cart during or at the end of said gratis trial period.

1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein said capability comprises at least one of a
2 credit, debit or smart card reader, a paper currency reader, a keypad, a touch sensitive screen,
3 an optical scanner, a magnetic scanner, and a wireless communicator.

1 6. A method for administering use of a golf course information system
2 implemented in golf carts or other roving units with display monitor adapted to provide display
3 of any or all of course and hole layout, course features and distance information to assist a
4 golfer in play of the golf course, or of specific information of interest to the individual from
5 external networks including tournament and individual scoring, stock quotations and electronic
6 mail to enhance the golfing experience, said method comprising the steps of:

7 establishing a gratis trial period less than an entire round of play of the course during
8 which the cart display of such information is enabled for a golfer using the cart; and

9 disabling said cart display of such information at the end of said gratis trial period
10 unless, by that point of play, an act representing commitment of payment for completion of the
11 round with enabled cart display has been detected.

1 7. A method for administering use of a golf course information system
2 implemented in golf carts or other roving units with display monitor adapted to provide display
3 of any or all of course and hole layout, course features and distance information to assist a
4 golfer in play of the golf course, or of specific information of interest to the individual from
5 external networks including tournament and individual scoring, stock quotations and electronic
6 mail to enhance the golfing experience, said method comprising the steps of:

7 invoking a gratis trial period less than an entire round of play of the course during which
8 the cart display of such information is activated for a golfer commencing use of the cart; and
9 automatically maintaining said cart display of such information active for completion
10 of the round if, by the end of said gratis trial period, a commitment of payment therefor has
11 been made by a golfer using the cart.

1 8. A method for administering use of an information system implemented in golf
2 carts adapted to provide access to information available through said system to persons using
3 the carts during play of a golf course, said method comprising the steps of:

4 establishing a trial period at the start of play with a cart, less than an entire round of
5 play of the golf course, during which at least the bulk of said information is available for access
6 by the cart user, and

7 ending access to said available information by the cart user at the end of said trial period
8 absent a payment authorization for continued access during play of the round.

1 ~~9.~~ Apparatus for administering use of an information system implemented in golf
2 carts adapted to provide access to information available through said system to persons using
3 the carts during play of a golf course, comprising:

4 said cart-implemented information system automatically establishing a trial period at the
5 start of play of a round of golf with a cart on said golf course, less than an entire round, during
6 which substantially all of said information is available for access by the cart user, and

7 entry means for detecting payment authorization by the end of said trial period for
8 enabling continued access to said available information beyond the end of said trial period.